

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-16 without prejudice, amend claims 17-20, and add new claims 21-29.

1-16. (Canceled).

17. (Currently Amended) A method of placing the distal end of ~~[[a]]~~ an ultrasound catheter at a desired location inside a vessel, comprising:

providing a sheath having an elongate body that has a lumen and ~~[[an angled]]~~ a distal end;

~~providing a guidewire;~~

extending ~~[[a]]~~ the ultrasound catheter over the guidewire through the lumen of the sheath; and

extending the sheath through the lumen of a guide catheter.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, further including:

advancing the sheath independently beyond the distal end of the ultrasound catheter.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, further including:

retracting the sheath proximal from the distal end of the ultrasound catheter.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, further including:

torquing the sheath to redirect the ~~[[angled]]~~ distal end of the sheath.

21. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the elongate body comprises a main shaft member and a distal shaft member, further including:

forming the main shaft member in an outer polymeric material having a reinforcing layer embedded therein.

22. (New) The method of claim 17, further including:

providing an inner wall of the lumen of the sheath with a lubricious polymeric material.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, further including:
providing the distal shaft member with a smaller outer diameter than the main shaft member.

24. (New) The method of claim 21, further including:
forming the distal shaft member in a polymeric material that is free of any reinforcements.

25. (New) The method of claim 21, further including:
providing the material of the distal shaft member with the same hardness as the material of the main shaft member.

26. (New) The method of claim 17, further including:
providing an outer surface of the elongate body with a lubricious coating.

27. (New) The method of claim 17, further including:
angling the distal end of the elongate body by an angle of between 10 degrees and 90 degrees.

28. (New) The method of claim 21, further including:
providing the distal shaft member to be more flexible than the main shaft member.

29. (New) The method of claim 17, further including:
providing the elongate body with a plurality of members that are attached together.